

Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission September 2, 2020

Present: Members: Maria Nye, Brenda Kelly, Jennifer Madden, Lisa Hassler, Matt Schimmel, Ellen Carlson, Carolyn Crowell. Members of the public: Ralph Vitacco, Tao Woolfe.

Call to order: Maria Nye meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

1. Review and approval of the minutes: The July minutes will be reviewed at the October meeting.

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow up: Ellen Carlson reminded the HC that she gathered responses from the Massachusetts Historic Preservation listserv about using the Abandoned House Initiative for historic preservation purposes. SHC will review the responses at the October meeting.

3. Public forum: None

4. Old Business: Matt proposes that SHC members do some work on the Jarvesville, Town Hall Square, and Spring Hill Historic Districts boundary markers. He suggests that now that the markers have been in place about ten years it may be time for a spruce up (powerwashing, brush clearing, ornamental planting). He also suggests the addition of QR codes that folks could scan with their smartphones and the code would take them to a description of the historic district on the SHC website. He has already cleaned up some of these on his own. He is willing to organize a day for volunteers to do the remainder of the markers, and he can work with Don to add to the content on the website. He believes the Visitor Services Board is available for funding.

Brenda had a phone conversation with the owner of the Seth Nye House at 124 Main Street which has fallen into disrepair. The owner seems willing to sell, and Brenda put her in touch with a local real estate agent.

5. New Business: Lisa emailed SHC members information about the floodplain regulations as they apply to historic structures. Owners of historic buildings in a floodplain are eligible for an exemption to the 50% substantial improvement rule. The extent of the relief is up to the local building inspector. The information will be added to the SHC website.

Ellen suggests that SHC members discuss what historic preservation priorities we would like to see included in the Local Comprehensive Plan, as this working group gears up to begin their work. The process is expected to take up to 18 months. We will spend a substantial portion of the October meeting on this topic.

6. Old Business:

7. Public forum: None

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden

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TOWN OF SANDWICH
SEP 15 2020
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